



HR0826

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Research-based prevention and wellness promotion
3 efforts that strengthen positive parenting practices and
4 enhance a child's resilience in the face of adversity have been
5 shown to have a significant impact on the child's mental and
6 physical health and their educational outcomes; and

7 WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control defines positive
8 parenting skills as good communication, appropriate
9 discipline, and responding to children's physical and
10 emotional needs; and

11 WHEREAS, Studies in the last decade point to the wisdom and
12 efficacy of prevention and early intervention; well-designed
13 programs created to promote healthy cognitive, emotional, and
14 social development can improve the prospects and the quality of
15 life of many children; and

16 WHEREAS, Evidence-based parenting programs have been shown
17 to provide critical information on child development and
18 safety, promote positive parenting behaviors, teach effective
19 discipline strategies, alter negative family patterns, and
20 reduce levels of child abuse and neglect; and

21 WHEREAS, Positive parenting practices are directly linked

1 to adaptive behaviors in children and can buffer negative
2 outcomes, even among at-risk families; and

3 WHEREAS, While positive parenting strategies can promote
4 adjustment and achievement, child abuse and neglect can
5 interrupt healthy development in children and lead to
6 maladaptive functioning; and

7 WHEREAS, Child abuse and neglect is a serious public health
8 problem that costs the United States \$103 billion annually;
9 these costs include \$33 billion in direct costs for foster care
10 services, hospitalization, mental health treatment, and law
11 enforcement and \$70 billion for indirect costs, such as loss of
12 productivity, chronic health problems, and special education;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Research shows an association between child
15 maltreatment and a broad range of social problems, including
16 substance abuse, violence, criminal behavior, teenage
17 pregnancy, anxiety, sexually transmitted diseases, smoking,
18 obesity, and diabetes; and

19 WHEREAS, Nobel prize-winning economist James J. Heckman
20 and others have shown that for every dollar devoted to the
21 nurturing of young children, we can mitigate the need for far
22 greater government spending on remedial education, teenage

1 pregnancy, and prison incarceration; and

2 WHEREAS, By almost any statistical measure, children in the
3 United States today are losing ground compared to the recent
4 past; the educational performance of American children is lower
5 and does not compare well with many other developed nations;
6 the general health of American children has grown worse, as
7 shown in the incidence and increased prevalence of obesity,
8 juvenile diabetes, and other disorders and diseases; more
9 American children as exhibiting troubling and violent
10 behavior, resulting in increases in children being expelled
11 from pre-school, elementary school, and high school, and
12 approximately 40% of children are dropping out of high school;
13 children and youth homicide rates are also on the rise
14 throughout the nation; and

15 WHEREAS, Researchers have found that, left untreated, the
16 effects of child abuse and neglect can profoundly influence
17 victims' physical and mental health, their ability to control
18 emotions and impulses, their achievement in school, and the
19 relationships they form as children and as adults; and

20 WHEREAS, In the first major study of child abuse and
21 neglect in 20 years, researchers with the National Academy of
22 Sciences reported that the damaging consequences of abuse can
23 reshape a child's brain, resulting in consequences that last

1 throughout their lives; abuse and neglect can influence the
2 amygdala, the part of the brain that regulates emotions,
3 particularly fear and anxiety; abuse also has been shown to
4 change the functioning of the prefrontal cortex, the part of
5 the brain responsible for thinking, planning, reasoning, and
6 decision making, which can lead to behavioral and academic
7 problems; and

8 WHEREAS, The effects of abuse on a child's brain and
9 behavioral development are not static and can be reduced with
10 high-quality, sustained intervention; the negative changes
11 present in a child's brain can be countered by positive brain
12 changes that take place when the abuse ends and the child is
13 given the support he or she requires; parenting education is an
14 important way to address mental illness before it results in
15 negative outcomes for children and families; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we state our belief that human services, healthcare, education
19 and justice authorities on the federal, State, and local levels
20 must include parenting education and early childhood education
21 funding in their budgets in order to combat this growing
22 menace; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That we state our belief that access to

1 universal, high-quality, and research-based parenting
2 education will equip parents with skills that can help them to
3 do the most important job they will ever have: raising
4 confident, well-adjusted, and productive members of society;
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we urge the State Board of Education to
7 identify potential federal grants for states that can be used
8 for parenting programs and early care and education programs;
9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we urge the State Board of Education to
11 require early care and education programs and to require
12 elementary, middle, and high schools to have family engagement
13 policies and procedures in place that welcome and involve
14 families in meaningful partnerships focused on children's
15 learning; programs should seek to include a high-quality
16 parenting education component, as well as to reduce barriers to
17 family engagement and offer diverse opportunities and pathways
18 for families to be involved in programs that enable them to be
19 successful partners in their child's education; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That we urge the State Board of Education to
22 consider the potential benefits of requiring a course in
23 parenting education as a prerequisite for high school

1 graduation; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 delivered to the State Board of Education.